

## 6<sup>th</sup> Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine - CROVASCULAR 2021

### AUTHORS:

MISLAV VRŠALOVIĆ

PAVAO MIOČ

The Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine, which was held on March 4-5<sup>th</sup> 2021, was the 6<sup>th</sup> in a series of international symposia annually organized by the Department of Medical Sciences of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital Centre and Croatian Cardiac Society. This year's title "Vascular puzzle" implicates the complexity of patients with vascular diseases and the importance of interdisciplinary approach in managing such patients. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the symposium was held for the first time completely in a high-quality virtual form.

Traditionally the symposium aimed to gather experts in the field of vascular medicine and to serve as a platform for experience exchange, discussion, and debate on the latest advances in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases.

Almost 200 participants, including eminent cardiologists, angiologists, interventional radiologists, vascular surgeons, neurologists and professors, researchers and scientists from all Croatian regions took part and contributed to interesting discussions after each session.

The president of the organizing committee and head of the Division of Vascular Diseases, Department of Cardiology, Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital Centre, prof. Mislav Vršalović, was pleased to have an opportunity to welcome so many colleagues despite the difficulties associated with the epidemiological situation. In his welcome speech he highlighted the long tradition of vascular medicine in the Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital dating back to the mid-20th century. Furthermore, during his lecture prof. Vršalović emphasized the importance of the first Croatian prospective Peripheral Artery Disease registry (CRO-PAD) that was designed and created in the Sestre Milosrdnice University Hospital more than a decade ago in 2010, with the aim to collect, organise and present data about patients with peripheral vascular diseases. The mission was to investigate risk factors, prognosticators and longitudinal events in order to improve patients' healthcare and disease outcomes.

Acad. Vida Demarin, secretary of the Department of Medical Sciences, gave an introductory word on behalf of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts emphasizing that the Croatian Symposium on Vascular Medicine has become one of the most important regional conferences on vascular medicine.

The president of the Croatian Cardiac Society, acad. Davor Miličić, welcomed the audience and expressed strong support to the CROVASCULAR symposia describing it as an event where, for many years now, latest clinical knowledge and experience have been shared.

The first session of the symposium was opened by prof. Aleš Blinc from the University Hospital in Ljubljana (Slovenia), with the

state of the art lecture about multisite artery disease clinical management. In the following lectures, very high-risk cardiovascular patients were in the focus.

The second part of the symposium was focused on thromboembolism challenges during COVID-19 era, where the most recent discoveries were presented and discussed.

The last two sessions consisted of case report presentations from four Croatian vascular centres (Zagreb, Split, Osijek and Rijeka) with a clear implication for clinical practice based on the most recent European Society of Cardiology guidelines. Apart from eminent experts in the field of vascular medicine, young clinicians who are at the beginning of their careers also had an opportunity to share interesting clinical cases from their centres.

At the end of the symposium, prof. Vršalović expressed strong hope that the next one will take place in the Revival Hall of The National Home palace in Zagreb, again.

